

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 9-15 clearly define in a patentable manner over the cited and applied prior art references. With reference to newly submitted independent claim 9, the present invention is set forth with specificity and comprises the following features:

1) Receptacle (1) is formed of a flexible and airtight resin sheet of 0.005 mm to 1.0 mm in thickness into a sack shape with an opened end (5), a closed end (6) and a cavity (1a) defined between opened and closed ends (5,6);

2) Absorbent (2) has suitable elasticity and flexibility;

3) Absorbent (2) absorbs a solvent dropped through opened end (5) in receptacle (1); and

4) User's finger (8) and the artificial fingernail (7) attached to user's fingernail are inserted into the opened end (5) into cavity (1a) to bring the artificial fingernail (7) into contact with the absorbent (2) and receive nearly second joint (9) of user's finger (8) in receptacle (1) in order to dissolve or soften resin of artificial fingernail (7) by solvent retained in absorbent (2).

During contact of the artificial nail (7) with the solvent in the absorbent (2), the resin of the artificial nail (7) is dissolved or softened by the solvent, and simultaneously, fibers or surface protrusions of the absorbent 2 can invade the artificial nail (7) so that the resin of the artificial nail (7) serves to physically bond a surface structure of absorbent (2) and the artificial nail (7) to prevent detachment of the remover from the artificial nail (7). As the inner volume in receptacle (1) is relatively small, solvent is heated by the temperature of

the natural finger (8) and heat of dissolution to promote dissolution and softening of resin of the artificial nail (7), while the receptacle (1) and the absorbent (2) are effective to keep heat in receptacle (1). When the resin of the artificial nail (7) is dissolved or softened in solvent, receptacle 1 made of thin-resin sheet and elastic and flexible absorbent (2) may easily be gripped from outside by hand or some tool, and external force can be applied to the artificial nail (7) to accelerate removal of the artificial nail (7). Thus, the artificial nail (7) can easily be removed from the natural nail in a relatively short period of time.

U.S. Patent 5,613,506 discloses an article for removing nail polish from a nail which comprises: a sealed envelope made of metal foil such as aluminum foil sealed along three edges and a rupturable sealed means such as perforations 20 along and adjacent to one edge thereof to allow for entry of a nail coated with nail polish into the interior of the envelope. This article is not formed for receiving nearly second joint of user's finger. On the other hand, the remover according to the present invention needs an opened end (5), but does not need and should not form a sealed structure along whole edges of receptacle (1) to prevent evaporation of a solvent impregnated in absorbent. Also, the remover of the invention does not need any rupturable sealed means.

U.S. Patent 3,124,825 shows a nail polish remover which comprises a pouch 11 folded at one end 19 and heat-sealed at other free edges; an applicator 12 removed from pouch 11. When nail polish remover is used, package 10 is opened at a sealed end of the free edges. Plies 13 to 18 are pulled apart after tearing or cutting, and applicator 12 is removed and forced against the nail to scrub the nails with polish remover.

U.S. 5,613,506 discloses a manicure-removing device which comprises a cylindrical container 2 made of glass, hard plastic material or a metal plate such as of aluminum; an air-tight closure 4 made of material similar to that of container 2, and soft cotton-like materials 10 impregnated with manicure removing solution, an air-tight closure 3 attached to a top of container 2 for preventing leakage of removing solution or volatile gas of a solvent.

None of the cited references discussed above teach, disclose, suggest or render obvious the claimed features as now presented in new independent claim 9 and the claims which depend therefrom. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 and claims 10-15 which depend either directly or indirectly therefrom patentably define over the cited and applied references and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on November 15, 2004.


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